

Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

- (ii) Externally aided projects are implemented for development and preservation of forests.
- (iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.
- (iv) A net work of protected areas has been established.
- (v) Guidelines have been issued to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (vi) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investments for conservation and development of forest resources.

(c) and (d) Soil and water conservation is an integral part of ongoing afforestation schemes of the Ministry including desert and drought prone areas.

Earnings from Chemical Exports

***290. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:**

SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total Indian chemical exports in 1998-99;
- (b) whether it is a fact that production and export earnings of Indian chemicals will receive a quantum leap if dedicated industrial estates for the chemical industry are built;
- (c) if so, the action proposed in creating infrastructural facilities for this purpose; and
- (d) the investment proposed to be made during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) According to the information

available in the Economic Survey 1999-2000, the total export of Basic Chemicals and Plastic Linoleum products during the year 1998-99 was of the value of Rs. 14,188 crore.

(b) While it cannot be said with certainty that the establishment of dedicated industrial estates for the chemical industry will result in a quantum jump in production and export earnings. It can be reasonably expected that with the availability of the necessary infrastructure and the resulting synergies, the companies located in such industrial estates would be more favourably placed to face global competition.

(c) and (d) The concept of developing mega chemical industrial estates is in the process of being evolved. The investment decisions would be made by the individual units involved.

Pollution by Steel Factories

†*291. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment is being polluted by steel factories in the public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the names of places where pollution checking plants have been installed during the last three years in those factories and the amount spent thereon;

(c) in which steel factories pollution control plants are planned to be installed; and

(d) by when such schemes would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Certain units of steel plants have been posing pollution problems, for which pollution control facilities have been upgraded or renovated, covering the following steel plants:

01. Bokaro Steel Plant — Bokaro
02. Rourkela Steel Plant — Rourkela
03. Durgapur Steel Plant — Durgapur

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.